

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146724
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/(7,-:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:JTOBIN

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O 091633Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 7355

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146724

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 5944 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
LONDON PARIS JUNE 8

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5944

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJECT: PARIS AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS: CONSULTATIONS IN KINSHASA

REF: KINSHASA 5770

1. SUMMARY: KINSHASA REPS OF PARIS FIVE HELD INITIAL CONSULTATIONS
JUNE 7. THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH ALL HAD INSTRUCTIONS WAS TO CONCERT
ON DETERMINING SHORT-TERM IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, WHICH BEING DONE IN
MEETING OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS TODAY, JUNE 8. ALL REPS HAD SIMILAR
READ-OUTS OF PARIS MEETING, EXCEPT FRENCH AMBASSADOR
WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD AT ALL ON
POLITICAL REFORMS. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION STRONG CONSENSUS
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EMERGED THAT DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU BY KINSHASA AMBASSADORS WOULD NOT BE
ADEQUATE, THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE APPROACH WOULD BE AT LEVEL OF CHIEFS
OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ALL SEEM TO AGREE THIS MIGHT
BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PARIS FIVE AGREEING ON CONFIDENTIAL
MEMORANDUM OR STATEMENT ALONG LINES DESCRIBED REFTTEL, IDENTICAL
TEXTS OF WHICH WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUSLY PRESENTED TO GOZ AMBASSADORS
IN FIVE CAPITALS AT HIGH (E.G. FOREIGN MINISTER) LEVEL. MEMORANDUM

TEXTS WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO MOBUTU FROM RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE MAKING CLEAR THEY CONCURRED IN MEMORANDUM'S CONTENTS AND INCLUDING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL POINTS RE REFORM THEY WISHED TO MAKE. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MERITS OF THIS TYPE OF SCENARIO. END SUMMARY.

2. LENGTHY MEETING OF PARIS FIVE CHIEFS OF MISSION EVENING JUNE 7 REVEALED ALL HAD RECEIVED SOME KIND OF READ-OUT OF PARIS MEETING BUT NONE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO GO BEYOND CONSULTING ON ZAIRE'S SHORT-TERM ESSENTIAL IMPORTS AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS (PARIS 17932). DURING DISCUSSION BELGIAN CHARGE REFLECTED GOB'S CONCERN THAT FOOD NEEDS MERITED URGENT ACTION; IN REPORT SENT TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR GOF STRESSED NEED FOR RELIABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES (I.E., NOT BY GOZ).

I NOTED WHAT SEEMED TO BE CONSENSUS IN PARIS THAT EVEN SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE LINKED TO REFORMS; ONLY BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SAME INFORMATION FROM PARIS. IT WAS AGREED THAT ECONOMIC/AID EXPERTS WOULD GET TOGETHER MORNING JUNE 8 WITH VIEW TO REACHING AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE ON NEAR-TERM REQUIREMENTS. RESULTS WILL BE CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 9.

3. FIVE REPS AGREED THAT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN HERE ON LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OR ON POLITICAL REFORM UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. WHEREAS BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD RATHER FULL READ-OUT OF SPECIFIC POLITICAL REFORMS DISCUSSED AT PARIS, MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE HAD NOTHING AT ALL AND NOT SURPRISINGLY EXPRESSED SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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DOUBT AS TO HOW FAR GOVERNMENTS COULD REALISTICALLY GO IN THIS DELICATE AREA. ALL AGREED THAT TIME CONSTRAINT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE MUCH MORE THAN A VERY GENERAL PITCH TO MOBUTU PRIOR TO BRUSSELS MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF HOW TO APPROACH MOBUTU, ALL FIVE REPS AGREED THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE ANY APPROACH TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL THAN THAT OF KINSHASA AMBASSADORS. THEY ALSO AGREED IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE A COMMON WRITTEN DOCUMENT -- A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM OR STATEMENT -

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TO INSURE A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF UNANIMITY TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON MOBUTU AND CURTAIL HIS ABILITY TO PLAY GOVERNMENTS OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER. SUCH A MEMORANDUM COULD ADDRESS THE NECESSITY OF LINKING FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO REFORMS, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATION AND LIMITED TIME IF SOMETHING IS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE BRUSSELS MEETING, THE MEMORANDUM

COULD PROBABLY NOT GO MUCH BEYOND INDICATING THE GENERAL AREAS, POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC, WHERE CHANGES WOULD BE EXPECTED. THE POINT ALSO COULD BE MADE THAT ONGOING ASSISTANCE WILL NECESSARILY DEPEND ON DEMONSTRATED GOZ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS DECIDED ON.

THE MEMORANDUM WOULD BE DELIVERED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADORS IN THE FIVE CAPITALS AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL -- E.G. FOREIGN MINISTER -- AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO MOBUTU FROM THE RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAKING CLEAR THE LATTERS' COMPLETE ADHERENCE TO THE MEMORANDUM'S CONTENTS. EITHER IN THESE LETTERS OR ORALLY, EACH GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE WHATEVER ELABORATION OR ADDITIONAL POINTS IT WISHED; ALTERNATIVELY, THIS COULD BE DONE BY THE AMBASSADORS IN KINSHASA.

5. THE POSSIBLE SCENARIO OUTLINED ABOVE REFLECTS STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL BRAIN-STORMING AMONG THE FIVE REPS HERE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THIS KIND OF APPROACH HAS SOME MERIT AND RECOMMEND THAT IT -- OR SOME VARIATIONS OF IT -- BE CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC RECOVERY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE146724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: :BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-1279
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780675/aaaacmlf.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cac3428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 5770
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2411707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARIS AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS: CONSULTATIONS IN KINSHASA
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, EFIN, EAID, CG
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cac3428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014